

fundamental questions of genetic theory are bound up with them, as I hope to show.

At the very time when I was gathering together most of the facts here presented, one of our leading Professors of Education found himself able to tell the public that "the dogma of infantile sexuality is now exploded". To speak of the theory as a "dogma" obviously implies that it is an article of belief resting upon no actual evidence. The objective behaviouristic records offered here are, I think, enough to show that it is neither a dogma, nor "exploded". Much of the ground covered is familiar everyday stuff to the psycho-analyst, whether of children or adults; but it is seen here in directly observed spontaneous behaviour, and not arrived at by any process of interpretation.

These observations of mine are not, however, by any means the only objective records now available. An experienced

American child psychologist has recently stated, "After infancy he (Freud) says that the sexual life of the child manifests itself in the third and fourth year in some form accessible to observation. Nursery school experience with children of this age supports Freud's opinion. Three and four years is the age of curiosity about sex parts, male and female, and about the origin of babies. It is the period of continued playing and experimenting with parts of the body. It is also the period in which adult inhibitions

come into play. The age period of three and four years, then, constitutes a stage in the development of sex."¹

The confirmatory evidence I am able to offer from a wide variety of first-hand sources will support this view further. It will be noted that none of the other authors quoted in the *Records* is a psycho-analyst.

It was with this sort of consideration in mind that I decided, whenever possible, to give the actual instances in

detail of the
behaviour in question, and not to content myself
with such
general statements as that " children do
behave sexually
from time to time ", or " I have definite
evidence to show
that they are interested in sexual organs and
the relations
between their parents " and so on and so forth.
Such general
statements are practically worthless as
significant evidence,
since nobody knows from them how often
and in what

¹ Helen T. Woolley, " Eating, Sleeping and Elimination/"
Handbook
of Child Psychology, 1931, p. 66.